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Q&A

What is the worst Valley commercial you have seen?

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March 30, 2000

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The Student Newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American

NEWS

■ Sara Lee Corp. has recalled 34,500 pounds of Ball Park brand hot dogs that might be contaminated with a deadly bacteria, *Listeria monocytogenes*, a food-borne organism that can cause fatal infections. No illnesses have been linked to the recalled products, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The hot dogs were distributed to retail establishments and commissaries in 15 states including Texas.

FEATURES



■ Teen pop star Britney Spears had to receive stitches last week after she was hit in the head by an errant camera during a video shoot. Spears was shooting the video for "Oops! ... I Did It Again," the first single from her forthcoming album, when the incident occurred. Spears suffered no serious injuries and ended up resting for several hours before finishing up the video shoot.

SPORTS

■ The Arizona Diamondbacks' bid to repeat as NL West champions suffered an early jolt Tuesday when All-Star third baseman Matt Williams broke a bone in his right foot in an exhibition game against the Seattle Mariners. Team spokesman Mike Swanson said Williams will be sidelined about six weeks, and foot specialist Dr. Peter Mitchell said the injury would not require surgery.

Over-the-counter drug sales tax lifted

Daniel Garcia Ordaz
The Pan American

It's no prank. Beginning April 1, Texas shoppers will no longer pay sales tax on most non-prescription drugs.

"The tax burden on working Texas

families is too high," Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said. "This new tax exemption on over-the-counter medicines is a way to ease the tax burden and help families stretch their budgets a little farther."

The tax exemption, a provision of Senate Bill 441, is a follow-up to the

school supply and clothing tax holidays occurring in August. The legislature passed the 1999 bill which permanently exempts consumers from paying the 6.25 percent tax.

"Exempting over-the-counter medicines from the sales tax is long overdue," Comptroller Rylander said.

"Prescription drugs have been tax exempt since the state sales tax was enacted in 1961. Paying sales tax on non-prescription medicine is a bitter pill to swallow."

The announcement last week by Rylander included a list of product

See **DRUGS**, page 4

Deep Roots

McAllen may soon destroy a 300-year-old mesquite to widen McColl Road

Leslie Love
The Pan American

If the city of McAllen has its way, three hundred years of Valley history will soon be destroyed.

The history is neither written or etched in stone, but instead lives within the knurled bark and kelly-green leaves of an ancient mesquite. The Old Mesquite stands quietly, awaiting a sentence of life or death, near the corner of Dallas and McColl, an area that centuries ago saw intense flooding. It might also



Light shines through the Old Mesquite near the corner of Dallas and McColl Road Wednesday morning.

See **TREE**, page 9

—Nelson J. Gonzalez/The Pan American

Committee to investigate allegations

Noe Perez, elections office face charges of incompetence in handling primary election

Miguel Liscano Jr.
The Pan American

In a meeting Wednesday, the Hidalgo County Elections Commission unanimously agreed to form a committee which would investigate allegations of wrong doing in the March 14 primary election.

County Judge Eloy Pulido, who called the meeting, said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss what action to take, if any, with the elections office and the elections administrator, Noe Perez. He said there were many mistakes made this primary and questions the

See **PEREZ**, page 4

Curriculum offers prelaw students added certificate

H. Farwa Naqvi
The Pan American

A new "legal reasoning" curriculum gives prelaw students a better chance at law school.

Upon completion, students receive a certificate to accompany their degree. UTPA, the first of the four schools to

establish this, will work cooperatively with other UT-system schools with a predominately Mexican American enrollment and law schools.

UTPA political science chair Jerry Polinard developed the program which will be the

See **CERTIFICATE**, page 8



INSIDE:
April Fool's Edition

April Fool's Day is Saturday, and The Pan American hopes you enjoy the mock news cover featured on **page 6**. Simply fold the paper "inside out" to fool your friends.

UTPA only campus in UT system lacking daycare

Melissa Soto
The Pan American

During "Meet the President" last week, Benigna Garcia called attention to the need for additional child care services on campus for UTPA students with children.

"I have to structure my classes between the time my

children are in school until they get out of school," Garcia said. "So, I am basically taking classes from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. to be home for my children."

Benigna Garcia joined student government as a senator with the goal of determining why UTPA does not provide a university daycare. After

See **DAYCARE**, page 8

March 30

2000



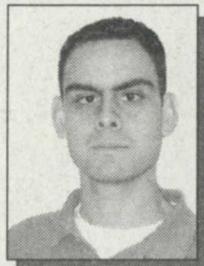
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Letters policy

Letters to the editor must include your name, address, and phone number. They will be printed on a space available basis.

Opinion

letters ■ editorials

Editorial excerpts

A condensed look at views expressed on various topics across the nation

Animal rights full of delimmas

Critics [of animal rights] worry that the animal law movement could result in restrictions on everything from medical testing on animals to breathing in bacteria. And we have reason to be worried.

Part of the reason animals have no rights is due to their inability to communicate with us, or our inability to communicate

with them. An animal cannot volunteer itself for a medical study. An animal cannot say it won't run away so it doesn't need a cage.

The animal rights and animal law movement assumes every animal's answer would be negative regarding the status quo. The status quo does not consider what an animal would agree to do.

Although current practice is not necessarily the kindest procedure, it is necessary. Without medical testing on primates, we never would have seen cures for diseases such as smallpox. Our cancer treatments would never have progressed. Our AIDS treatments would not exist.

— **Tania Mejer**,
Emerson College

STOCK MARKET
SALE



■ Thumbs up to students who have registered to run for an office in SGA.



■ Thumbs down to the Valley not having any live stand-up comedy clubs.

The Pan American View

You've got the power to choose happiness

Rachel A. Carpenter
The Pan American

The American standard is to do whatever it takes to find happiness in life. Happiness is often linked to finding fulfillment in financial success, friendship, family, faith or a life long mate. The mistake that is often made is in the belief that happiness in any area of life is the absence of pain or problems — a perfect life is a happy life. Not so.

True happiness does not depend on circumstances but rather how we relate to those circumstances. We all have the power to live a fulfilled and significant life no matter what our situation.

Laura Lewis Lanier says, "Do not be afraid to be touched with afflictions beyond your own ability to cope. It is from being shaken apart and not being destroyed that one becomes strong and courageous."

At first glance and even knowing me well, you may never know that I have endured the abandonment of my father, the abrupt and tragic death of the man I considered my father growing up in an automobile accident that literally left him

in pieces, the death of my grandfather, the loss of best friends, exploitation and betrayal — no more than most and much less than many.

Recently, a kind man said to me that he hoped I would have a good life — one void of suffering. Having seen his own son on the operating table for open-heart surgery at age five, he wished that I would never have to endure such a difficult scene with any of my future children or loved ones. Even the mention of such a memory brought pain to his otherwise cheerful face.

In a moment, I knew he only saw in me a young, cheerful, optimistic girl; he could not know that my life has been anything but trouble free.

I responded to him and I say to you, I'm not the joyful person you see because I've never known sorrow. I'm more than content and fulfilled with my life because I choose, in words borrowed from Barbara Johnson, to count blessings not calamities.

I rarely reflect on my life as a series of tragic events; rather, I identify my past with the joy of being blessed with the wisest, greatest mother any child could

have; having, if only for a time, great men in my life who filled the void of a father; being fortunate enough to come to a university with quality professors who have influenced my life.

I could go on forever, and the emotion I feel over the hundreds of things that have gone right always outweighs the things that have gone wrong. And yet many people do not share this ability.

It is the classic, human tendency to measure what we have not rather than what we have.

Here's the mistake that has plagued the ages since Adam and Eve. God gave them everything they needed and wanted and what was their prerogative? They coveted the ONE thing they had been forbidden, and it ruined their lives forever.

"It never hurts your eyes to look on the bright side of things" said an unknown author. We have nothing to lose in choosing an optimistic view.

I encourage you to identify yourself by the benefits, comforts, pleasures, opportunities, accomplishments, happy memories — in short by what you have been given in this life.

Q&A

What is the worst Valley commercial you have seen?

— Nelson J. Gonzalez

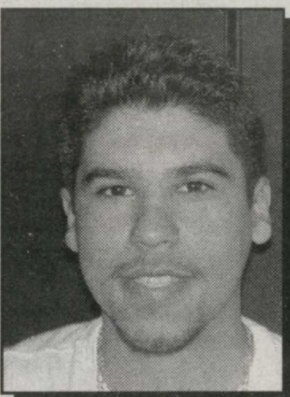


Shelly Farrias
Sophomore
Physical Therapy

I think Johnny's Tru Value commercial is stupid. The one with the big fat guy fumbling and stumbling around while the song in the background goes "The honey do blues."

Marilda Saenz
Freshman
Undecided

Super Splash Adventure water park [commercial] is a dumb one. It doesn't make me want to go there.



Alfredo Salinas
Junior
Kinesiology

The one I dislike is the Burns Motors one where the old guy is driving around in a Dodge Viper. He has shades on, cruising to that stupid song in the background and you see him laughing.

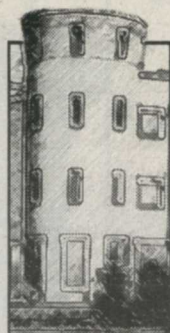
Michael Gonzalez
Junior
Communications

Any commercial from Ed Payne Motors is stupid. Who are they trying to impress? They aren't even funny because I'm not laughing.



Dandy Pilon
Sophomore
Undecided

Ianelli's has this commercial where the guy says that he picks the best cows for the best meat, and then they show a picture of the cow trying to run away from the camera. I think that is so mean.



Campus

news briefs

Valley losing educated work force

Yvette Solis
The Pan American

A recent issue of UTPA's *News & News*, the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission area is the third fastest growing small metropolitan areas in the U.S.

However, the Valley's loss of its educated work-force in the face of recent population growth represents a problem according to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC).

Population estimates released in 1998, cites there are more than half a million people living in the small metropolitan area.

Although the Valley is growing in population, its educated work-force is leaving the Valley, opting to find employment opportunities in larger metropolitan cities.

"There are growing employment opportunities for graduates in the Valley but not enough," said Jennifer Mendoza, UTPA cooperative education coordinator. "In areas such as public relations or advertising, opportunities are still slim."

Mendoza states that while many Valley graduates leave the Valley to gain work experience elsewhere, many come back to

the place of their roots.

"I like the Valley but I'd really like to get out of here for a while and see what else is out there," Argelia Vargas, STCC student said. "There are few well paid jobs here, I want a good job."

While low pay and limited employment opportunities are currently major factors contributing to the loss of Valley work-force, the LRGVDC predicts that continuing growth in the Valley bringing better pay and higher employment will encourage the opportunities sought in larger metropolitan areas.

UTPA draws high school students with AP concurrent enrollment

Special to the Pan American

Carmen Rincon and her brother Hugo may be just two of 11,500 students attending UTPA, but they represent a growing trend of students nationwide who are getting a headstart on college before graduating high school.

Thanks to Advanced Placement (AP) tests, concurrent enrollment and the UTPA University Scholars program, the Pharr-San-Juan-Alamo Memorial graduates may receive their college degrees sooner than the customary four or five years.

Already a junior, Hugo, 20, is majoring in mechanical engineering during his second year at UTPA. Carmen, a first-year student, is a biology major in the UTPA/Baylor College of Medicine Premedical Honors College.

"High school students should take advantage of concurrent enrollment and AP courses because they help you with your freshman courses," said Carmen, 18. "And if you get the hours out of the way [and] put you on a faster pace to graduate."

Both Hugo and Carmen are University Scholars. Started in 1998, the program allows entering freshmen from

Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties the opportunity to receive a four-year tuition and fees Distinguished Achievement Scholarship and designation as a University Scholar.

To qualify, a student must have a "B" average in 12 hours of AP or concurrent enrollment credit from four separate exams or courses in different subjects.

Or, a student can have a "B" average in six hours of AP or concurrent enrollment credit and a minimum composite ACT score of 24 or minimum composite SAT score of 1110.

In two years, the University Scholars program has grown tremendously. Fifty-five of the 75 applicants were accepted this year, a 189 percent jump from the 19 of 22 applicants approved a year earlier.

Genese Lamare, a 19-year-old pre-med student in the UTPA/Baylor College of Medicine Premedical Honors College, is also a University Scholar. She wrestled with three other schools offering soccer scholarships before deciding on UTPA's.

"Everything has been great so far," said Lamare, a biology major. "I think I'm getting everything I need to eventually get to Baylor University."

"We have quality academic programs. Academically talented students are now recognizing UTPA."

— Earl Frankengerger,
interim vice president for enrollment and student services

The Premedical Honors College is operated by UTPA and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston to provide rigorous undergraduate educational experiences in preparation for medical school. Its goal is to increase the number of physicians practicing in the medically underserved region of South Texas.

With 35 credit hours, Lemare already is a sophomore after just one regular semester. She took several AP courses at McAllen Memorial High School and passed corresponding exams in English and history.

Then Lamare applied for and was accepted to the University Scholars program. Coupled with the honors college scholarship,

See **ADVANCED PLACEMENT**, page 5

DRUGS continued from page 1

tax break is expected to save Texas families about \$160 million in state and local taxes during its first full year, 2001.

To be tax exempt, a product must be "a drug or medicine: an article or substance intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease or suffering" Rylander said. The drug must be intended for human use and must have a National Drug Code (NDC) number issued pursuant to U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations.

According to Rylander, some of the 100,000 products which qualify for the sales tax exemption include allergy treatment, anti-rheumatic, bronchodilator and anti-asthmatic, dandruff, eye care and contact lens, hemorrhoid, sunburn prevention and treatment products, analgesics, antacids, cold remedies, laxatives, prophylactics, vitamins and minerals and wound care dressings and supplies.

The exemption does not

cover medical equipment and devices such as thermometers and dental floss.

Because of the prevalence of diabetes in Texas, however, the legislature voted specifically to apply the new sales tax exemption to blood glucose monitoring strips.

Previous law exempts

Governor Bush never wanted condoms to be exempt. A condom is not a drug. . .

— Linda Edwards,
Spokesperson for Governor Bush

orthopedic braces, crutches, wheelchairs, hypodermic needles and syringes from the sales tax.

Governor Bush's spokeswoman, Linda Edwards, said Bush was disappointed that condoms are among the over-the-counter medical items that will be exempt from taxes.

The Republican presidential candidate, who has said abstinence should be promoted to teen-agers, proposed the tax break during his re-election campaign in 1998 and did not want it to cover condoms, Edwards said.

"Governor Bush never wanted condoms to be exempt," said Edwards. "A condom is not a drug or medicine, although it does fall under the FDA's National Drug Code."

"We must stress that abstinence isn't just about saying no to sex," Bush's campaign website quoted him as saying. "It's about saying yes to a happier, healthier future."

But state Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said last week she had no choice but to list condoms as a product that will be exempt from the tax beginning Saturday.

"Any product that has an NDC number meets the definition and must be tax exempt," Comptroller Rylander said. "It's not a matter of interpretation, it's a matter of the law."

PEREZ continued from page 1

administrator. The Commission will meet on Monday to choose the committee. The committee will have the results of their investigation in 30 days so the commission can decide what action to take.

"My concern is that this never happens again. We've got a general election coming up in November, and we cannot afford for this to happen again," Pulido said. "It's bad enough we have the apathy we have with the voting public to begin with."

During the meeting Pulido read a list of allegations against the elections office, such as 44 ballots counted late, mail in ballot tampering, election judges attempting to influence voters at poll stations, and voters being denied the right to vote.

Pulido said he has gotten reports about people not being allowed to vote because records indicated they had already voted by mail. He also claims to have received complaints from the Delta and Weslaco areas regarding poll workers walking in on voters while they were in the booth

My concern is that this never happens again. We've got a general election coming in November.

— Eloy Pulido,
County Judge

voting, or voting for them.

Pulido said Yvette Ocanas, the precinct 64 judge where 44 ballots were counted one week late, told him she was dismissed when she left her ballots at the elections office. Because of this Pulido places the blame on the office and administrator.

In response, Richard Alamia, a lawyer speaking for Perez, said his client should be presented with these claims in writing and given an opportunity to answer Pulido's accusations.

All but the 44 late ballots have not been proven. Perez maintains there were problems with the election, but they were out of his control. He said the problem

began with the 44 ballots which were misprinted. In that precinct, Perez said there was a power outage which added to the problem. He said the only thing he could do was make copies of good ballots and send them to the precinct.

"Alluding to the complaints that you read, all those are heresay," Alamia said. "Those issues have never been addressed to my client in written form. We have to be able to respond."

As to the other allegations, Perez feels the fault lies with election judges since they take responsibility for what happens at their polling stations.

Perez said the reason Ocanas was dismissed on March 14 was because the elections office was chaotic. He said the ballots would have been counted, but no one new she was from precinct 64.

He said she did not inform anyone of the ballots which needed to be counted. She was the only one who could open it but by the time they were discovered she was gone and a court order was needed to break the seal.

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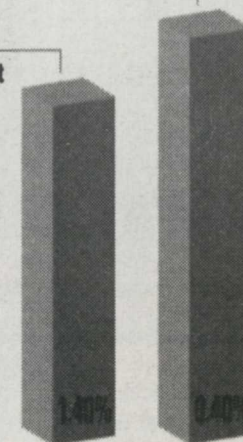
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Taking advantage of the recent good weather in the Valley, Stella Behars' 1322 French class meets outdoors Tuesday near the COAS Building.

—Nelson J. Gonzalez / The Pan American

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

continued from page 3

her education costs are covered. "I'd tell (high school students) to take as many AP classes and tests as you can," Lamare said. "I only took a few, and I wish I had taken more. Every credit you can get helps."

According to Earl (Bud) Frankenberger, interim vice president for enrollment and student services, the University Scholars program is the summit of a pyramid designed to attract high-performing students to UTPA.

"We're in a transition, entering a period which we are known for a high-caliber academic reputation," Frankenberger said.

"We have quality academic programs that have been developed so quickly here that they are sometimes overlooked.

Academically talented students are now recognizing UTPA."

Beginning in 1995, admissions requirements were changed so prospective UTPA freshmen without college preparatory coursework had to graduate in the top 50 percent of their class. Three years later, the requirement was increased to placing in the top quarter.

In 1993, 25 percent of entering freshmen at UTPA completed college preparation courses in high

school, University statistics show.

That percentage has steadily risen, with 75 percent of entering freshmen last fall having taken college preparation courses.

Complementing college preparation courses is the Texas Scholars program, a collection of incentives and strategies aimed at motivating students to obtain the state recommended high school degree. Twenty-four of the Rio Grande Valley's 28 school districts now have the program in place, with positive results.

For 1994-95, 42 percent of students in a seven-county region that includes Valley counties graduated with an advanced seal, slightly above the 41 percent state average. Four years later, 53 percent of the region's students obtained an advanced seal.

Advanced Placement, which enables students to earn college credit for courses taken in high school, is the next pyramid level, Frankenberger said.

Currently, UTPA is second only to UT Austin in the UT System for receiving AP scores from prospective students and awarding AP credit to entering freshmen. As of February, UTPA ranked seventh in Texas in top AP scores, Frankenberger said.

Deadline for December grads approaches

Yvette Solis
The Pan American

Undergraduate students who plan to graduate in December 2000 must fill out a graduation application before the April 3rd deadline.

Graduating students can pick

up a graduation application in the Office of Admissions and Records.

After completing the application, students must take it to the Office of Payments and Collections along with a \$25 fee.

After paying the fee, students

must take the application back to the Office of Admissions and Records to be processed.

"After 4:00 p.m. the office is pretty busy so students are encouraged to come in during the day when it's less stressful," Melva Saenz, manager of Payments and Collections said.

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University Ballroom

Coaches hope flubber can fuel UTPA sports

Oidale Zemaj
The Pan American

A spokesperson for the UTPA athletic department announced tomorrow that 75 percent of half of the department's budget was spent to purchase flubber for the basketball and baseball teams. The move came after yet another losing season by both men's and women's basketball teams.

"We want to win. We hate to lose. I hate to lose," athletic department spokesperson Jacque S. Trappe said, sobbing uncontrollably at a press conference.

The university hired a professor from Germany to volunteer his time and specially designed the mucus-like flubber.

S. S. "Smitty" Schmidt said the project cost an estimated \$647,381.47 and took a long and grueling three short days to complete. Schmidt said the flubber is made of three different kinds of the same

flubisculus plant. The plant is also used in some Second World countries as a hallucinogen and pain killer, and Schmidt hopes the flubber won't be used for the wrong purposes.

"I would like to see the flubber used for what it was invented for. To give zee Broncs athletic teams an unfair advantage," Schmidt said. "I hope zee athletes don't use the flubber as a drug or start selling it."

Although basketball season is over, the teams have been using the flubber in practice and shoot arounds.

Stretch McGee, junior forward and team captain of the men's team, is happy with the flubber and is looking forward to next year.

"Man, this is good stuff," McGee said. "I can't remember the last time I got this high . . . off the ground."

Women's head coach Bob Osa is skeptic about the flubber. She fears her players might go through the roof of the arena and

breaking their necks.

"There is no way we can control how high our girls can get. I mean, what if they never come back down?" Osa asked.

The baseball team will also be allowed to use the flubber in their quest for a post-season birth. The flubber will mainly be used by the outfielders, helping them make spectacular home run saving catches.

Coaches and players are excited to use the flubber and feel good about their chances of making the regional tournament.

Sophomore right-center fielder Dale "Cheat" Boombottom was excited about the flubber.

"Wow! We're going to be using flubber during our games," Boombottom said. "Just like in that movie with Mork."

In order to cover the cost of the flubber, the athletic department has done away with all other athletic programs. They will also be selling pizza at the old Science quad everyday till the money is paid off.



—Noslen J. Zelaznog/The Pan American

High Flying Flub: Sophomore right-center fielder Dale "Cheat" Boombottom tests the Broncs' newest secret weapon: Flubber. Boombottom was able to make a 10 foot vertical leap to prevent a home run in the ninth inning against the Scandinavian Shrubbery Hunters. "We came here today to beat the 'bush,' " Boombottom said. "And thanks to flubber, and God, that's what we did."



—Stanley Stargazer/The Pan American

Bronc Fans or High Flying Vandals? Broncs assistant coach Mike Brown discovered what he called "evidence of alien vandalism of the highest decree" Wednesday morning after arriving at Jody Ramsey Stadium to find the field was covered with a mysterious 'crop-circle cow.' "Actually, it looks a little like a dog to me," Brown said. "Except it does have utters." Brown and UFO experts called to investigate agreed that UFOs must be "getting pretty bored with circles."

Experience necessary Broncs baseball team recruits seniors for added depth, maturity

Caasi Airravach
The Pan American

Make way for the new boys in town.

The average age of the UTPA baseball team jumped from 22 to 46 over the weekend. UTPA signed seven recruits, who average 80 years old, in order to add experience to the team.

"I just want to help the team by showing them that I still got my pitch," said Sam "Speedy" Whittlecomb, 99, the eldest of the newcoming old-timers. "I [struckout 40] and I can do it again."

Whittlecomb pitched in high school and reached 60 strikeouts in one season.

Others have shared the joy of a rejuvenated career.

"I was really proud of him," Whittlecomb's grand daughter Rhonda said. "He really missed not playing those 60 years."

Whittlecomb is expected to make an immediate impact on the teams record. Coaches believe his

"I just want to help the team by showing them that I still got my pitch. I [struck out 40] and I can do it again."

— Sam "Speedy" Whittlecomb,
UTPA Bronc recruit

years of little league, high school and softball will help bring the team's ERA down. Whittlecomb isn't worried about injury, citing that he has always expected to make a comeback and has exercised regularly. "I'm as fit as a fiddle!" Whittlecomb rattled, pounding a fist to his chest.

The other players have set their goals more realistically. "We just want to play some ball and help out the team like everybody else," Moe Schinkle said. "We really don't think we're special in any way. We're just guys getting a second chance."

The young players are excited to learn from the elders and see how their techniques work. "I think it's great that we get to learn from people that have been in different situations. He reminds me of my grandfather," said Anthony J. Morrison, a star bench warmer for the Broncs who is now mid-way through his 12th season.

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Q&A

Which is your
favorite toe nail
to chew?

Page 3



SATURDAY

April 1, 2000

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The Student Newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American

NEWS

■ The head of Bucky the Bronc, UTPA's mascot, was discovered Wednesday morning in the bed of Edinburg Mayor Joe Ochoa. Police have apprehended UTPA president Miguel Nevarez, Edinburg's reputed underworld crime boss "Don Fiesta."

"I made 'em an offer he couldn't refuse," Nevarez told investigators. "When he did [refuse], well, what can I say?"

A police spokesman said Bucky and Ochoa have refused to press charges and the case against Nevarez would be dropped.

FEATURES



■ ABC Network representatives announced Wednesday that Pope John Paul II would be the first celebrity contestant on the hit game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*.

"[The pontiff] is really pumped for the fastest-finger round," host Regis Philbin said. "But the network is still checking whether its fair to let his 'Phone-a-friend' be God."

SPORTS

■ As part of baseball pitcher John Rocker's community service following offensive comments about New York and minorities in *Sports Illustrated*, the hurler has written a children's book titled *My Fun-time Trip to New York* and has planned a reading before 100 elementary students today.

Canal scare reveals cheerleaders as heroines

Chuck A. Topp

The Pan American

A victory celebration in Edinburg turned to tragedy as *The Pan American* editor Ryan R. Henry fell into a canal Wednesday night, but quick thinking by cheerleader Courtney Bell aided rescuers in their attempted rescue.

Witnesses report that Bell removed her shirt and threw it into the water to mark the spot where Henry fell. Stories conflict concerning the events following Bell's heroic action, but senior Lionel Montevideo describes the episode as both "utter pandemonium" and also "quite a pep rally."

Seconds following Henry's apparent

drowning, an unidentified student pushed *Pan American* sports writer Eladio Jaimez into the canal, shouting to the cheerleaders, "Mark it here! He fell here!"

Tops flew, as did several other *Pan American* staffers, as the crisis escalated and incited many revelers to do the wave. Rescue officials estimate

at least a half a dozen victims are still unaccounted for following an intense search near the areas marked by the shirts. "They tried," senior Todd McGlee said, referring to the cheerleaders. "They tried to save those dudes from drowning."

Services will not be held for the deceased.

Police urge public to claim items

\$25,000 check one of many oddities in lost and found

Leugim Onasil

The Pan American

The UTPA Campus Police are urging students to claim missing items in the department's lost and found.

Among lost keys and wallets, officer Joe Friday said other oddities have piled up and are crowding operations, including a \$25,000 check with a note "For rooms for basketball team." "It's a clue,"

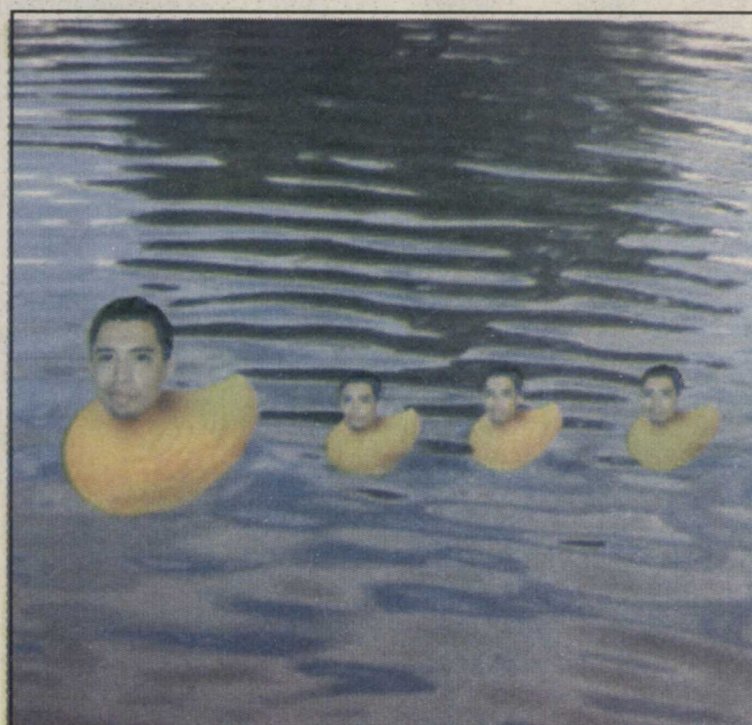
Friday said Wednesday. "But we are not sure what it means yet."

See **LOST AND FOUND**, page 23Z

MISSING

The following items are in the lost and found:

- \$25,000 check
- Baby in a basket
- A human brain
- 960 diplomas



—Nosten J. Zelaznog/The Pan American

From The Genetic Cesspool: Researchers from UTPA's Biology Department have successfully cross-cloned a university student with a rubber ducky recently. "While, admittedly, there may not be much use for our discovery, the success of this project was astonishing even to me," said Reginald Stupert, a biology professor leading the research. "Hopefully, we can build on this work. Our next project will be to cross-clone a graduate student with a pigeon."

Toilet paper study wipes misconceptions away

Liddy Leffup

The Pan American

The Student Sanitation Awareness Task Force has published its findings Wednesday concerning a research project titled "Business Study No. 2," detailing college students preferences concerning toilet paper installation.

"We wanted to know if students perferred an 'up-and-over' or 'from-the-bottom' method of dispensing toilet paper," Task Force Commissioner Ratcliff Nadar said, a little flushed. "Our findings indicate that student opinion often varies."

See **TOILET**, page 159Q

TP STUDY

■ 40 percent of students polled perferred the toilet paper to dispense 'up-and-over.'

■ 60 percent perferred the toilet paper to dispense 'from-the-bottom.'



Society hosts new all-day writing workshop today

Leinad Aicrag

The Pan American

The UTPA Independent/Dependent Intellectual Ongoing/Temporary Society (IDIOTS) will be hosting an all-day writing workshop from noon to 4 p.m at the UC Ballroom today.

Tents will be set-up outside

and the event is strictly BYOB (bring your own book). Authors will be on hand to give free advice for \$10 per question.

"I think it's a good experience for everybody," said John Schmuckatelli, president of the IDIOTS. "Everybody'd invited, but even if nobody comes, I'll be there!"

See **IDIOTS**, page -42°E

DAYCARE continued from page 1

studying the 1993 Task Force Garcia discovered UTPA was the only university in the UT system that did not provide child care service for students.

"Every campus on the UT system has at least one or two daycare centers on site, including UT Brownsville which is smaller than we are," Garcia said.

Patty Lopez, Elementary Child Coordinator in the College of Education, said for the past two years UTPA has worked with the Hidalgo County Headstart Program to establish child care services at the old Lamar elementary school on Schunior Road.

"We are not planning to open a daycare, but we have been working with the Headstart program at the old Lamar school," Lopez said.

Thelma Barrera, Hidalgo County Headstart supervisor, said the Hidalgo County Headstart program approached UTPA with the idea of

creating a daycare. "We saw there was a need [at UTPA] to service the students," Barrera said.

"We are not planning to open a daycare, but we are working with the Headstart program."

-Patty Lopez,
elementary child coordinator

The Lamar Headstart program requires parents to be students of or employed by UTPA, and their children to be between the ages of three and five by September 1st. Income, depending on family size, also determine whether students meet qualifications.

"It's an all day program from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from August to May," Barrera said. "The children follow an educational curriculum and do indoor and outdoor

activities."

Currently 57 children participate in the Lamar Headstart program. Three classes, divided into three-year olds, four-year olds and five-year olds, are instructed by teachers, with Associates Degrees in child development and assistants.

Garcia argues another daycare located on campus should be considered since many students do not meet the requirements for the Lamar Headstart program.

"I'm a parent myself and my kids don't qualify for the headstart program," Garcia said. "The daycare only takes children from three to five, so what about the parents who have newborns, and two-year olds? Who's going to take care of them?"

Lopez said the Lamar Headstart program will continue to provide services for student who qualify as long as they are needed. The Lamar Headstart program will be taking applications on April 13th, 14th and 17th.

CERTIFICATE continued from page 1

model for similar ones at other schools in the Law School Partnership Task Force. UT-Brownsville, UT-El Paso, UT-San Antonio and UTPA are the four schools that are working with UT-Austin's law school in response to the Hopwood decision which rendered all race-based selections for recruitment or scholarships illegal.

According to Polinard one of the goals of the program is to enhance the kind of skill needed to do well on law school tests as well as in law school.

Because the average LSAT scores for UTPA pre-law majors were

significantly lower last year (143 as compared to the national average on 151) administrators are making efforts to help them get accepted based on other merits, such as an extra certificate.

"If our students aren't going to get in with the scores, they're going to have to use other things like certificates, letters of recommendation, personal statements" Polinard said.

The coursework includes classes that are included in basic undergraduate degree plans since pre-law students can major in anything. "The way I

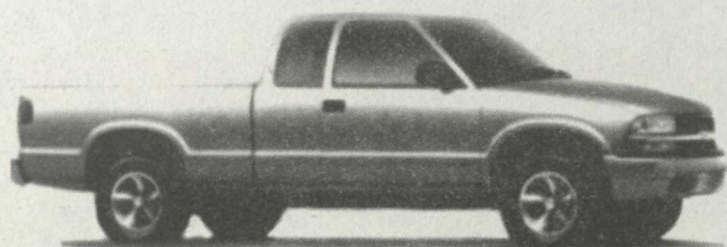
designed this, no matter what you're majoring in, you could fit this in," Polinard said. There are six hours of "capstone courses" which will be taught by a UT law school faculty. The exact details, however, have not been decided.

Because the "capstone courses" won't be offered until the summer of 2001, juniors and seniors may have a difficult time participating. One of the ultimate goals, according to Polinard, is that over a period of time law schools admissions will come to recognize the certificate which will add some weight.



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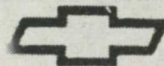
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TREE

 continued from page 1

have been an enclave for Cuahiltecan Indians, the hunters and gatherers who roamed this land before Europeans arrived.

The Old Mesquite was here when the very first foundations of McAllen were laid and is still here as the city continues to flourish and grow.

The rapid growth has led to the hectic traffic conditions along McColl Road. As a result, conflict has arisen between the residents and the McAllen City Commission on the claim that the site is not only a haven for over 30 species of birds, but also a historical sight.

Last March, the commission planned on chopping down the Old Mesquite along with other trees in order to widen McColl. Protests from residents led the commission to wait for at least one year before a final decision was to be made.

As city engineer Bobby Balli said, "The traffic has increased 600 percent, a

twofold increase."

The commission has unanimously agreed that something must be done to improve the traffic conditions on McColl road. Teclo Garcia, director of Media Relations at the McAllen City Commission said, "They are still having discussions about McColl Road and the decision will probably be made next month."

The fact that the Old Mesquite has to suffer in order to allow more traffic to flow through the area is devastating to resident Trev Sparks.

Sparks feel that he small neighborhood has attracted visitors from across the country to watch the various species of birds and to look at the beautiful area in which they live, which is now under the threat of being destroyed.

"I believe that the tree is [part of] the ancient ancestors of mesquite trees," Sparks said.

Today, the mesquite stands at about 50 feet tall

"
I believe that the tree is [part of] the ancient ancestors of mesquite.
"

- Trev Sparks,
McAllen resident

and three feet wide.

Dr. Robert Lonard, professor at UTPA, believes that it is impossible to tell how old the tree is.

"It would be difficult to tell the age of the tree [if it were chopped down and rings counted]", Lonard said. He added that rings appear with the changing seasons, and they signal a new stage of growth, but on this particular tree, markings would be to faint.

Sparks, along with the many other residents in the neighborhood, believe the Old Mesquite is historical and should not be destroyed.

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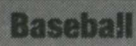

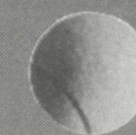


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Sports Calendar

March 31		Baseball	Baseball vs. Incarnate Word (DH)	Jody Ramsey	4 p.m.
		Notes:	The Broncs last game was an exhibition against the Reynosa Broncos. They lost 6-3, with nine pitchers taking the mound.		
March 31		Golf	Men's Golf @ Border Olympics	Laredo, TX	TBA
		Notes:	Stephen Slaughter placed 38th to lead all Broncs in the teams meet at the Moe O' Brien Invitational.		
April 1		Tennis	Men's Tennis vs. U. of Arkansas-Little Rock	Arlington	10 a.m.
		Notes:	The Broncs faced their worst defeat of the season, losing all six singles matches and all three doubles at Texas A&M-CC.		
April 1		Baseball	Baseball vs. Incarnate Word	Jody Ramsey	1 p.m.
		Notes:	The Broncs split six games against the Crusaders last season at home.		
April 1		Golf	Men's Golf at Border Olympics	Laredo, TX	TBA
		Notes:	The Broncs are looking to break a slump, after finishing in 16th and 18th place at their last two outings.		

Quick Hits

Men's tennis team win streak ends

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi defeated UTPA 7-0 in a men's tennis match Sunday afternoon at the North Shore Country Club.

The Islanders, in just their second year of competition after over a 25-year hiatus, had little trouble with the Broncs, winning all six singles match and all three doubles tilts. The Broncs had won three straight matches going in, but fell to 6-2 on the season.

Jorge Cuesta had the most success against the Islanders, falling by just a 6-3, 6-3, score to Chris Bergues at number one singles, then came back to drop a narrow 8-6 decision with Unai Uranga in number one doubles.

Juan Saiz also came close to picking up a singles win, falling by a 6-3, 6-3, count at number five singles.

The Broncs will play next on Saturday, April 1st when they travel to Arlington to take on Arkansas-Little Rock at 10 a.m. They will follow that up with a match against UT-Arlington on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Arkansas-Little Rock wins invite

Arkansas-Little Rock ran away with the team title, shooting a two round total of 618 to finish 32 strokes ahead of host Oral Roberts.

Midland College took third place, just one stroke back of ORU with a 651. North Texas was fourth with a 653 and Northeastern Oklahoma State was fifth with a 657. The Lady Broncs took sixth place with a 698.

Jamie McInturff finished 19th overall,

leading the UTPA women's golf team to a sixth place finish in the Oral Roberts University Invitational Tuesday afternoon at the Broken Arrow Golf and Country Club.

McInturff shot a final round 81 to finish with a two-round total of 167. She finished behind the trio of Linzi Morton (Midland), Maria Jose Hurtado (Arkansas-Little Rock), and Laurie Vescovo (Arkansas-Little Rock), who all tied for medallist honors with a nine-over par 153.

Alejandra Gutierrez finished 35th with a 178, Jeannie Lane was 38th with a 180 and Tootie Lauzon was 39th with a 181.

Up next for the Lady Broncs is tournaments on Monday April 3rd and 4th in the BYU Dixie Classic in Provo, Utah.

Track and Field place at UAT meet

The UTPA Track & Field team participated in the 7th Annual UAT meet this past weekend.

It was a homecoming for Galina Ojeda, who was born in Tampico. She placed second in the 400 meter hurdles.

Shari Galvin placed first in the women's 400 meter run. Her twin sister Jamika finished second in the women's 100 meter run. On the second day of competition, Shari finished first in the women's 200 meter run with a time of 26.26. Jamika finished behind her with a time of 27.03.

David Ozuna, Emmanuel Butler, Carlos Gallegos, and Jason Montemayor won the bronze medal competing in the men's 4x400 meter relay.

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Broncs take on Incarnate Word Crusaders

Eladio Jaimez
The Pan American

In what is developing into a small rivalry, the UTPA Broncs (17-11-1) battle the University of the Incarnate Word Crusaders tomorrow in a double-header of a three game series. Game time is set for 4:00 p.m.

UIW (10-16) has won four of it's last six games due in large part to their offense.

"We have got to meet the challenge," Bronc head coach Reggie Tredaway said. "They can really swing the bats, and they'll come in here ready to do that."

Currently the Crusaders' batting average stands at .310, nearly 20 points better than the Broncs average of .291.

Second baseman Mike Rodriguez and designated hitter Greg Hoppes lead UIW's offensive crusade. Rodriguez boasts a .396 batting average and Hoppes enters the contest batting .391.

The Bronc hurlers have held their opponents to a .275 batting average.

Juniors Jason Thompson and Mike Calvert face the task of calming down the Crusaders' hot bats.

hot bats.

Thompson pitches game one of the double-header while Calvert takes the mound for the second game.

Thompson currently sports a 2-4 record and an ERA of 5.51. Calvert goes into the contest with a 4-1 record and a 5.48 ERA.

"We have to stay ahead of the hitters," Tredaway said. "Our pitchers have been falling behind on the count and that has really hurt us. Once you fall behind the hitter knows what pitch is coming next."

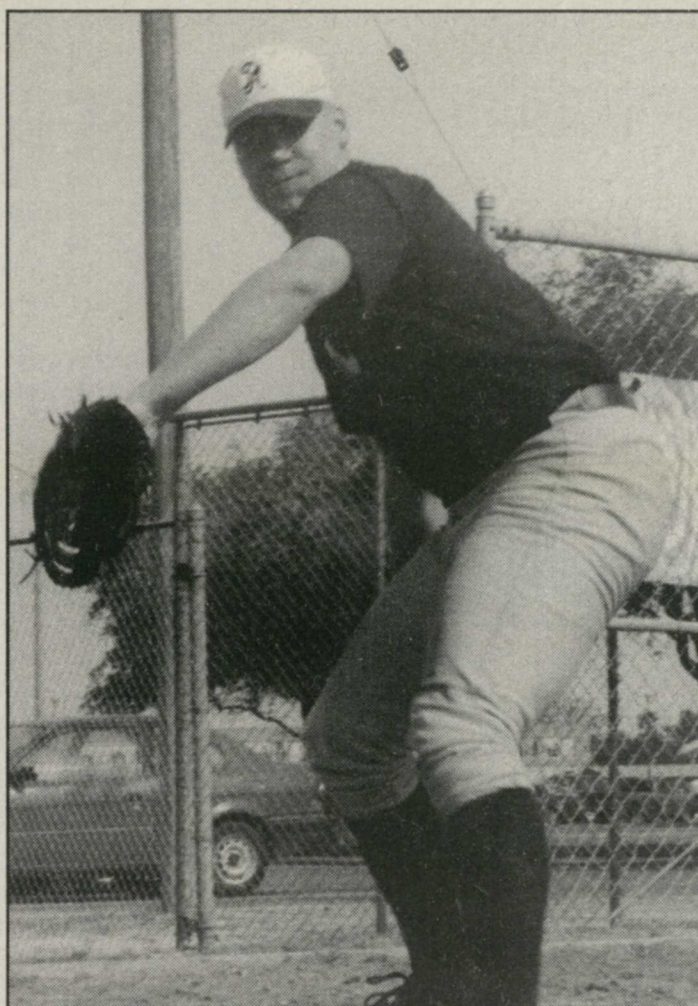
Expected to get the nod for the Crusaders are Dustin Franklin and Marcus Galaviz.

Franklin comes to Edinburg with a 4.71 ERA and a 2-3 record. Galaviz brings a record of 2-4 and an ERA of 6.29 to Jody Ramsey.

The Crusaders' pitching staff have the unenviable job of facing a Bronc offense led by junior catcher Jesse Gutierrez.

Gutierrez leads the Bronc offense in five categories, including batting average (.400) and homeruns (9).

The two squads conclude the three game series at 1:00 p.m. Saturday.



Junior pitcher Scott Fowler has been the go to man out of the bullpen for the Broncs. In 12 appearances, Fowler boasts a 5-1 record and a .52 ERA.

Quick Hits

Payton and Maxwell make up

Gary Payton and Vernon Maxwell have made up after a locker-room fight that injured two Seattle SuperSonics teammates.

"Whenever you go through a thing like Gary and Max went through, it is over the next day," center Horace Grant said. "Max and Gary are back on the same page. It's like a relationship and a marriage, you go through your ups and downs"

The scrap happened Sunday, after a practice session in which Payton and Maxwell exchanged barbs. It escalated into a fight, which Grant and Chuck Person helped to end by pulling their teammates away from each other.

Payton and Maxwell made up before to the Sonics played the San Antonio Spurs on Monday.

However, Grant sat out Monday night's game with a bruised shoulder and Person, already on the injured list, aggravated his surgically repaired left knee. The struggling Sonics lost their fourth straight at home, 90-82.

General manager Wally Walker said neither Maxwell nor Payton will be suspended. However, team sources, speaking on the condition they not be identified, told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* both players were fined for their behavior.

With a 40-30 record and in eighth place in the Western Conference, coach Paul Westphal hopes the scuffle will motivate the Sonics.

"I told them that all the prophecies that everybody made about this team are going to come true if we don't fix it," Westphal said.



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Tredaway continues winning ways

Eladio Jaimez

The Pan American

He is considered by many as one of the best Bronc baseball players ever.

He holds the record for nine RBI in one game. He also handled 95 consecutive fielding chances at third without committing an error.

Another Bronc record.

What many consider the most famous hit in Bronc baseball history is credited to him.

With bases loaded, he hit a triple that gave the underdog Broncos a 4-0 victory over the Texas Longhorns. With the win the Broncos captured the NCAA District VI championship.

Reggie Tredaway has been with the UTPA Bronc baseball program for 31 years. As a player, assistant coach, and now, in his third season as head coach.

"Coach Al brought me here as a player. As a player I tried to learn from him how to be a coach for years and years, and after 23 years I figured I was ready," Tredaway said.

Tredaway was named head coach in April of 1997. He replaced Al Ogletree, who was the Bronc skipper for 29 seasons. Ogletree retired as the winningest active coach in NCAA Division I.

"I'm just real tickled. He will take the program further than I did," said Ogletree upon learning that his right-hand man was taking over the Bronc ball club.

Tredaway played his high school baseball at Midland High School. Ogletree, then



Eladio Jaimez/The Pan American

Reggie Tredaway had the task of replacing coaching legend Al Ogletree. In a recent practice, Tredaway talks to his squad as the recently retired number 44 of Ogletree sits on the centerfield fence.

head coach at Sul Ross State, invited Tredaway to come to Alpine and try out for his ball club. Tredaway made the squad as a walk-on and was on scholarship by the spring.

"I remember when coach Al called me and said if you make my ball club I'll put you on scholarship, and I said that's good enough," Tredaway said. Tredaway helped lead the

Lobos to the NAIA World Series in '68. Ogletree then brought Tredaway to Edinburg when he took the head coaching position.

In 1971 Tredaway led the Broncos to the College World Series in Omaha. That season the Broncos finished fourth in the nation and Coach Ogletree was named National Coach of the Year.

Tredaway was drafted by the Montreal Expos and the Oakland Athletics, but decided to stay in college realizing the importance of a college education "Coach Al gave me a chance to go to college out of a family of ten kids," Tredaway said. "Back then the money wasn't that good either. I had a family and if they wanted to give me enough money to take care of my family O.K., but I just felt the money wasn't good enough."

Tredaway hopes he can teach his players more than just baseball.

"The main thing I want these guys to take from here is to be responsible for what they do, on and off the field. We want good players with good character," Tredaway said.

Away from the baseball diamond, Tredaway finds other ways to keep busy.

With five grandchildren, Tredaway jokes that he hardly finds time for baseball.

"The grandchildren really keep me busy, but as far as hobbies I really like to hunt and fish. I enjoy being away from the telephone. I enjoy being out in the open space. as much as I can," Tredaway said

Stars & Stats

Baseball

The Broncos are hitting .291 as a team with 35 home runs in 28 games.

Offensive leaders include Gutierrez and Leo Salinas. Gutierrez leads with a .400 average, 9 HR, 10 2B, 29 RBI, and a .835 slugging percentage. Salinas, who has started every game, is hitting .357 with a team leading 41 hits in 115 at bats. With runners on base, Salinas is hitting .357 with runners in scoring position his average jumps to .500, and is a perfect 3 for 3 with the bases loaded.

Track & Field

Gonzalez broke the record for the shot put with a throw of 15.13 meters, breaking the old record by nearly a meter, at the UAT meet in Tampico.

Stephen Zarate achieved his personal best at UAT with a time of 2:09.28 for the 800 meter.

Oleya Teran placed first in the 800 meter with a time of 2:21.68.

Dawne Hill finished second in the Hammer throw by reaching 42.08 meters. Sandy Guerrero finished third in the women's 5K run with a time of 19:57.96.

The Lady Broncos 4x400 meter relay team finished second with a time of 4:09.77.

David Ozuna had a strong showing, placing second in the 400 meter dash and 400 meter hurdles.

Men's Golf

Steven Slaughter fired a seven-over par 223 to tie for 38th place and pace UTPA to a 16th place finish at the Moe O'Brien Invitational on Tuesday.

Slaughter fired an opening round 71, followed with a 75 and finishing with a final round of 77.

Santiago De Larrea finished second among the Broncos, with a three-round total of 230.

Juan Elizondo followed with a 234, Miguel de los Santos had a 236. Ramon Garcia totaled a 238 and Albert Moncada had a three-round total of 249.

Cubs get a sample of Japanese crowds in exhibition game

Teddy Greensteing

Knight-Ridder Tribune

Where were the cheerleaders and the megaphones? And what about the incessant beating of the drums?

The Cubs had been told the atmosphere at the Tokyo Dome for their exhibition game against the Yomiuri Giants would be raucous.

"With the drums beating and horns playing, it's unbelievable," said pitcher Brian Williams, who played for Fukoka of the Japanese Pacific League in 1998. "It's non-stop."

Said infielder Cole Liniak: "It's supposed to be so loud, you can't even hear."

Try again. It was almost quiet enough to hear the crowd of 53,000 laughing at the Cubs, who managed only six hits in the 6-0 drubbing Monday night.

"I was surprised," Mark Grace said. "This was not the party atmosphere we had in '92 (during an All-Star tour). They were sitting on their hands pretty much. They were all there for Sammy (Sosa) but didn't have much to cheer about."

The Cubs have major concerns heading into the opener, and that goes well beyond facing Mets ace Mike Hampton, who went 22-4 last year for Houston.

Not one Cubs pitcher won half that many games in 1999. Jon Lieber, their Opening Day starter,

ranked among National League leaders last season with 8.2 strikeouts and 2.0 walks per nine innings.

Still, Lieber couldn't stay afloat on the Cubs' sinking ship, going 2-8 with a 4.94 earned-run average after the All-Star break.

The Cubs' offense, expected to be respectable, has been downgraded to mediocre after the injury bug swept through Mesa, Ariz., during the final week of spring training. Both Glenallen Hill (pulled hamstring) and Willie Greene (lacerated hand) were placed—gently, with two hands—on the disabled list, meaning the Cubs will be without their top right-handed- and left-handed-hitting reserves.

Manager Don Baylor's top left-handed hitters off the bench are 37-year-old catcher Jeff Reed and outfielder Roosevelt Brown, who hit .219 in his first stint with the Cubs last season. His right-handed hitters are rookie infielders Jose Nieves and Liniak. The two hit a combined .248 for the Cubs last season with two home runs in 210 at-bats.

Ugh.

Before Monday's exhibition game, several Cubs were shocked to see that the Yomiuri Giants had set up adjoining batting cages so two of their players could practice their hitting simultaneously. By now, all the practice swings in the world won't make facing Hampton any easier

for the Cubs.

Even Sosa will enter the game in a mini-slump. He went 0 for 4 Monday, extending his hitless streak to 11 at-bats.

The fans did let out a burst of "ooohs" when Sosa sent a rocket down the right-field line in the first inning that sliced foul. They also cheered when Sosa flied out to the warning track in the eighth. Then streams of fans flooded the exits.

Not that anyone would have noticed that they were gone.

"It was as quiet as I've ever seen it," said Cubs scout Leon Lee, who played 10 seasons in Japan. "You usually get dizzy watching all the activity in the crowd. I was surprised"